

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IGA-02 AGR-05 PM-04

INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 AS-01 /076 W

----- 079035

O R 311925Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2125

INFO DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 11470

S/NM FOR AMB VANCE; SER/INC FOR WAMPLER; DEA FOR EOI CUSACK

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI

REF A. MEXICO 11441 (NOTAL, ALBERTI/DUGSTAD TELCON DEC. 30,
C. MEXICO 11322 (NOTAL), D. STATE 302992,

1. SUMMARY: IN REF A WE REPORTED BRIEFLY ON THE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL'S MEETING DEC. 29, AND NOTED THAT WE WOULD BE REPORTING
SEPARATELY ON SPECIFIC REQUESTS MADE BY THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY
GENERAL FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IN THE INTENSIFIED CAM-
PAIGN, AS WELL AS ON HIS ANSWERS TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS POSED
BY US ATTY GEN LEVI AND AMB JOVA. THESE
REPORTS FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL DISCUSSION. IN ADDITION TO CONVERSATIONS RE-
PORTED IN REF A, OJEDA ALSO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE COMING YEAR WILL BE AN ELECTION YEAR IN BOTH
COUNTRIES AND HENCE THE PRESSURES WILL BE INTENSE FOR BOTH
ADMINISTRATIONS TO MAKE A GOOD RECORD ON THE NARCO-
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TICS PROBLEM. ALSO THE AG IS DETERMINED TO LEAVE A VIABLE

ORGANIZATION TO HIS SUCCESSOR.
HEADS HAVE ALREADY ROLLED AND MORE
WILL FOLLOW UNLESS THIS INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN IS A
SOUND SUCCESS. MR. LEVI AGREED COMPLETELY, RES-
PONDING ALONG LINES, IN PARA 2(D), OF REF C,
MENTIONING REPORTS OF POPPY FIELDS ALREADY HARVESTED
AND UNDERLINING THAT FAILURE TO ACT NOW MIGHT PRO-
DUCE INTOLERABLE POLITICAL PRESSURES LATER.

B. WE HAVE ALREADY LOST SOME PRECIOUS TIME,
BUT THE SITUATION IS NOT DESPERATE. IF THE GOM CAN
MOBILIZE ADDITIONAL MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES BY
MID-JANUARY, THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE A MOST SUCCESSFUL
ONE AND WILL BE REFLECTED IN A MARKED DECREASE IN
MEXICAN HEROIN AVAILABLE IN THE US.

C. IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL GROUP'S
DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT FORD, OJEDA REMARKED THAT HE
HAD VERY MUCH ENJOYED MR. RANGEL'S VISIT AND THAT
IT WAS INSTRUCTIVE FOR OJEDA TO EXPERIENCE THE IN-
TENSE PERSONAL CONCERN OF A CONGRESSMAN WHO MAY
HAVE AS MANY AS 300,000 ADDICTS IN HIS CONSTITUENCY.
MR. LEVI REPLIED THAT WE HAVE INDICATIONS BASED ON
HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS THAT THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC IN THE
US MAY BE SPREADING. THERE IS EXTREME PREOCCUPA-
TION AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT OVER THIS
SITUATION.

D. THE MEXICAN AG AGAIN MADE HIS POINT THAT A
SOFTER USG POLICY ON MARIJUANA WOULD CAUSE HIM EN-
FORCEMENT PROBLEMS, SINCE THE SAME TRAFFICKERS
OFTEN HANDLE BOTH MARIJUANA AND HEROIN. MR. LEVI
EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING, SAYING HIS EARLIER TALKS
WITH OJEDA HAD BEEN PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS
(LEVI'S) RECOMMENDING AGAINST DECRIMINALIZATION OF
MARIJUANA.

3. TROOP COMMITMENTS. OJEDA SAID THAT DESPITE
WIDESPREAD USE OF HERBICIDE SOME TROOPS WOULD AL-
WAYS BE NEEDED, AND THAT WE COULD BE CONFIDENT
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THERE WOULD NEVER BE A LACK OF GROUND FORCES. HE
SAID DR. GERTZ HAD MET PREVIOUSLY WITH CULIACAN
ARMY ZONE COMMANDER AND HAD RECEIVED FIRM COMMIT-
MENT OF 79 COLUMNS (ACTUALLY SQUADS) FOR USE IN
THAT AREA OJEDA HAD BEEN ABLE TO BREAK DOWN
OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES BETWEEN ARMY ZONES, AND HAD
DELIBERATELY NOT GIVEN ARMY AN OPERATIONAL PLAN IN
ORDER TO AVOID THE HAMSTRINGING NEED FOR THE ARMY

TO OPERATE "BY THE BOOK". THE MEXICAN AG ADDED THAT DR. GERTZ WOULD MEET ON JAN. 12 WITH THE ZONE COMMANDERS OF SINALOA, DURANGO, AND CHIHUAHUA IN ORDER TO WORK OUT ANY PROBLEMS AND MAKE SURE THE TROOPS WERE PROPERLY DEPLOYED.

4. HELICOPTERS FROM OTHER GOM AGENCIES. IN RESPONSE TO MR. LEVIS AND AMB JOVA'S QUESTIONS, OJEDA SAID THE MEXICAN ARMY HAD VERY FEW HELICOPTER PILOTS, IMPLYING THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN HELICOPTERS OR PILOTS FROM THIS SOURCE. THE ONLY HELICOPTERS AVAILABLE IN MEXICO BELONGED TO GOM AGENCIES, HE SAID, AND NOTED THAT THEY WERE USUALLY USED FOR URGENT MISSIONS TO TRANSPORT HIGH RANKING ARMY OFFICERS OR OTHER GOM OFFICIALS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CANNABALIZE OTHER GOM DEPENDENCIES TO SATISFY HIS NEEDS. (NOTE: WE ARE NOT SATISFIED THAT THIS ANSWER IS DEFINITIVE AND ARE CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE THESE POSSIBILITIES.)

5. REMOTE SENSING. OJEDA SAID THIS WAS A DEFICIENCY, FOR THE PRESENT MOPSS SYSTEM COULD COVER ONLY 600 SQ. KM. PER DAY, AT OPTIMUM. SINCE THE AREA TO BE COVERED WAS SO HUGE, IT WOULD TAKE AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME TO COVER IT EVEN ONCE, LET ALONE TO RE-FLY THE AREA TO MONITOR DESTRUCTION EFFORTS. BY 31 DEC., DR. GERTZ WOULD HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY A PRIVATE FIRM USING LEAR-JET AIRCRAFT. FLYING AT AN ALTITUDE OF 35-45,000 FEET, THEY COULD COVER TEN TIMES MORE AREA PER MISSION THAN CAN MOPSS. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, OJEDA SAID GOM WILL PLACE MAIN

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RELIANCE ON VISUAL SPOTTING OF POPPY FIELDS BY FIXED AND ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT.

6. SPECIFIC REQUESTS. ASKED WHAT GOM NEEDS TO MAKE CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS, MEXICAN AG ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

A. IN GENERAL, ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS AND PILOTS FOR SPRAYING, TO BE IN COUNTRY DURING JAN. THESE COULD BE EITHER LEASED OR PURCHASED SHIPS; BUT THERE MUST ALSO BE SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF PILOTS TO FLY THEM. OJEDA SAID NO US CITIZEN PILOTS COULD BE ACCEPTED, BUT GOM WOULD BE VERY EAGER TO GET MEXICAN NATIONALS RESIDENT IN US. WE ASSURED HIM THIS SEARCH WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY, AND

THAT WE WERE ALSO READY TO SUBSIDIZE HELICOPTER PILOT SALARIES TO ATTRACT PERSONNEL FROM MEXICAN PRIVATE SECTOR.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IGA-02 AGR-05 PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2126
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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B. ALL SPRAY EQUIPMENT TO BE IN COUNTRY IN JANUARY. WE TOLD OJEDA THAT FIVE EXIMPLEX SYSTEMS WOULD BE SHIPPED BEFORE JAN. 15. WE ALSO RECOMMEND PROVISION OF MINIMUM TWO EVERGREEN MICROFOIL SYSTEMS, AS SUGGESTED IN REF (D).

C. THE MEXICAN AG SAID THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR THE TWO FAST AND TWO STOL AIRCRAFT, AS PROPOSED EARLIER FOR AIR INTERDICTION EFFORTS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THAT BUREAUCRATIC AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS MAY MAKE THE PROVISIONS OF THESE AIRCRAFT FOR INTERDICTION PURPOSES A PROBLEM. BUT, HE SAID, LET US DISREGARD THE INTERDICTION QUESTION FOR THE MOMENT. WHAT HE REALLY NEEDS THESE AIRCRAFT FOR IS FOR QUICK PERSONNEL TRANSPORT (TASK GROUPS, ETC.) WITHIN MEXICO, SO THAT HIS FORCES CAN RESPOND QUICKLY TO THE NEED FOR SIZEABLE NUMBERS OF ENFORCEMENT PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS CASES ARE DEVELOPED, WHETHER THEY BE IN ACCESSIBLE OR REMOTE AREAS. MR. LEVI SAID HE HAD

NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE PROBLEM ON PROVISIONS OF THESE AIRCRAFT; BUT HE ASKED FOR MEMORANDUM FROM AMBASSADOR JOVA, SO THAT HE MIGHT TAKE THE NECES-
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SARY STEPS IN WASHINGTON TO SECURE AGREEMENT ON PROVIDING THE AIRCRAFT ASAP.

D. ALL MAPS OF THE ERADICATION AREAS ARE NEEDED URGENTLY, IN MULTIPLE COPIES. OJEDA WAS ASSURED THAT PART OF THE MAPS HAD ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED AND THAT THE REST WOULD BE HERE WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME.

E. ROADBLOCK VEHICLES. MEXICAN AG WAS TOLD THESE ALSO WOULD BE IN COUNTRY BY VERY EARLY JANUARY.

7. OJEDA ENDED BY SAYING THAT FOR VARIOUS REASONS THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY OF PERHAPS TWO MONTHS IN SECURING ALL EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE CAMPAIGN. BUT AGAIN HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE CAMPAIGN CAN BE A SUCCESS IF:

A. ALL SPRAY EQUIPMENT IS IN COUNTRY HOPEFULLY BY JAN. 15.

B. ALL AVAILABILE TROOPS ARE USED EFFECTIVELY.

C. ALL HELICOPTERS HAVE MAXIMUM AVAILABILITY AND ARE USED EFFECTIVELY.

8. WE KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT DEPT. IS URGENTLY WORK-
ING ON MOST OF THESE REQUIREMENTS. WE URGE SPEEDY ACTION ALSO ON MICROFOIL SYSTEMS AND FOUR CITED AIRCRAFT.

JOVA

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